

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1968

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ATHERTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



T. MCGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

*Town Hall,
Atherton,
Manchester.*

7th. November, 1969.

Dear Sir,

ANNUAL REPORT 1968

I refer to the Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Public Health Inspector and would be grateful if you would cause the following amendment to be made.

My Medical Officer of Health has drawn my attention to an error of compilation of the figures of "Infant Deaths".

On page 9 of the report, it is shown as follows:-

Infant Deaths-

Under 1 year of age	10
Under 4 weeks of age	8
Under 1 week of age	7

and on page 10 (Table 1) under the Heading No. of Deaths Registered it is shown as 25 whereas it should read 10.

I would be grateful if you would accept this amendment of the error on my part, and I apologise for inconvenience caused.

Yours faithfully,

T. McGuire
Senior Public Health Inspector.

The Secretary,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
LONDON, S.E.1.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

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Atherton Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor C. URMSTON

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor N. F. CHESTERFIELD

Councillors:

F. FILDES	R. SHAW	J. STAVELEY
G. FIRTH	A. HOLLIDAY	H. H. SHARLAND
W. GOULDEN	F. LYTHGOE	J. SUMNER
G. GRIMSHAW	W. MURPHY	W. WILLIAMS
P. JONES	S. PICKARD	
H. JONES	M. J. RIGBY	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

ERIC WATT, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. S. GARSIDE

AUTHORISED MEAT OFFICER:

JOHN E. CLEMENT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT—CLEAN AIR:

T. BLAKELEY

CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

MRS. A. HOPE

CONTENTS

Foreword

Section A — Statistics

Section B — Health Services

Section C — Infectious Diseases

Section D — Sanitary Circumstances

Section E — Food

Section F — Housing

Section G — Smoke Abatement

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

The estimated population showed a continuation of recent upward trends. The birth rate, whilst minimally less than last year, was above the national figure. The death rate showed a marked upward swing in both sexes, although the pattern of distribution of causes remained comparable with previous years. There were no maternal deaths, and of the ten infant deaths, seven occurred in the first week of life. Diphtheria re-appeared in Atherton after a lapse of 20 years, and regretfully the outbreak was ushered in with a death—the first since 1943. In view of the rarity of this illness, fuller reference is made in Section C of the report. It is hoped that parents will note that immunisation would almost certainly have prevented the death, and might also have limited the outbreak more completely.

Smoke control has progressed satisfactorily and now almost half the acreage of the township is covered, involving about 40 per cent. of dwelling houses.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR

SECTION A

Statistics

SECTION A

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1961 Census—19,755.

Mid-1968 Estimate—20,700.

Number of inhabited houses—7,472.

Rateable Value—£548,154 at 31st December, 1968.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£2,107 at 31st December, 1968.

Vital Statistics

Live Births:—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	172	170	342
Illegitimate	13	7	20
Total	185	177	362

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 18.2

Still Births:—

Males	Females	Total
4	4	8

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 22

Deaths—All Causes:—

Males	Females	Total
157	197	354

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 17.1

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 14.5

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infant Deaths—

Under 1 year of age 10

Under 4 weeks of age 8

Under 1 week of age 7

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 **live** births 22

Peri-Natal Mortality per 1,000 **Total** births 41

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS

	*Live Births		Stillbirths		*Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Nec-Natal
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1968 ...	362	18.2	4	22	354	14.5	Nil	Nil	22	7	41
Year 1967 ...	364	18.4	13	34	289	12.9	Nil	Nil	11	7	37
Year 1966	432	22.1	12	27	327	13.7	Nil	Nil	37	12	27.8
Year 1965	367	19.1	7	18.7	277	12	Nil	Nil	27.2	7	19.1
Year 1964	339	17.4	11	31.4	267	13.7	Nil	Nil	35.4	9	26.5
Year 1963	338	17.7	8	23.1	286	14.1	Nil	Nil	26.6	6	17.8

Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.04)

Death rate (comparability factor, 0.85)

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1968

Registrar General's Return

	Males	Females
Diphtheria	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	10	6
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	9	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	3
Leukaemia	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	23	11
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	1	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—	3
Avitaminoses, etc.	—	1
Other Endocrine, etc., diseases	—	1
Anaemias	1	—
Meningitis	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	3	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	4
Hypertensive Disease	7	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	34	31
Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	33
Cerebrovascular Disease	21	37
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	3
Influenza	—	4
Pneumonia	8	19
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.....	3	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	2	—
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	2
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	—	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2
All Other Accidents	1	5
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	5	1
TOTAL.....	157	197

TABLE III

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales, in the year 1968.
(Provisional figures based on Registrar Generals
Weekly and Quarterly Returns).
Estimated home population mid-1968—48,593,000

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population	
Births			
Live Births	819,275	16.9	
Stillbirths	11,847	0.24	
		14.3	(a)
Deaths			
All causes	576,601	11.9	
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	2,091	0.043	
Respiratory	1,458	0.030	
† Other	633	0.013	
Cancer (all forms)	112,543	2.32	
Lung and bronchus	28,826	0.59	
Other cancer	83,717	1.72	
Maternal mortality (total).....	198	0.24	(a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	148	0.18	(a)
Due to abortion	50	0.06	(a)
Infant mortality	14,952	18.3	(b)
Neo-natal mortality	10,128	12.4	(b)
Early neo-natal mortality	8,658	10.6	(b)
Perinatal mortality	20,505	24.7	(a)
Notifications (corrected)			
Typhoid fever	118	0.002	
Paratyphoid fever	89	0.001	
Scarlet fever	14,897	0.306	
Whooping cough	17,367	0.357	
Diphtheria	15	0.000	
Erysipelas	982	0.020	
Smallpox	1	0.000	
Measles	236,170	4.860	
Acute poliomyelitis —			
Paralytic	19	0.000	
Non-paralytic	5	0.000	
Acute encephalitis —			
Infective	106	0.002	
Post-infectious	72	0.001	
Dysentery	19,502	0.401	
Food poisoning	5,961	0.122	
Tuberculosis —			
Respiratory	10,707	0.220	
Meninges & C.N.S.	92	0.001	
Other	2,185	0.044	
Anthrax	9	0.000	
Infective jaundice.....	11,579 (from 15. 6.68)	0.442	*
Acute meningitis	262 (from 1.10.68)	0.021	*
Tetanus	8 (from 1.10.68)	0.000	*
Lentospiriosis	11 (from 1.10.68)	0.000	*
Meningococcal infection	342 (to 30. 9.68)	0.009	*
Acute pneumonia	5,381 (to 30. 9.68)	0.147	*
Puerperal pyrexia	3,046 (to 30. 9.68)	0.083	*

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births

(b) Per 1,000 live births

* Calculated annual rate.

† As a result of coding to the 8th revision of International Classification of Diseases these figures now include all deaths from "late effects" some of which would formerly have been assigned to "Respiratory Tuberculosis".

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

SECTION B

HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance

Atherton Ambulance Station, Back Orchard Lane. Tel. Swinton 4343.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer: Mr. G. Littlemore, Williams Deacons Bank Chambers, Leigh. Tel. Leigh 74121.

1. ANTE-NATAL

Alder House Midwifery Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 10-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

(i) Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

(ii) Poliomyelitis (Oral Vaccine) Thursday mornings,
9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

(iii) General Practitioner Service.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday morning.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.
Second Thursday afternoon of each month.

6. CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

Alder House Clinic.

By appointment.

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT

Alder House Clinic.

By appointment.

8. SPEECH THERAPY

Earl Street Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males: Monday to Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males: Friday, 2 to 6-30 p.m.

Females: Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m.

(iii) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

Males and Females: Monday, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Also Fridays only at Alder House Clinic.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses employed by the Lancashire C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals

1. GENERAL

Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton; Whelley Hospital, Wigan.

3. MATERNITY

Billinge Hospital, Bilinge.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Board Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Withington Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed whole-time in the area by Lancashire C.C.

Nursing Homes

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Moral Welfare

Miss Johnson, 186 Chapel Street, Leigh, Monday to Friday, Mornings: 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Interviews by appointment. Tel. Leigh 71061.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C.
Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities

At Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

In a recent symposium, Sir James Howie, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, discussed "Infectious disease—does it still matter?" One attitude to-day claims that infection hardly matters at all, a second attitude is that of panic and confusion in the face of an epidemic, whether in a city, a hospital, a place of work or part of the country. Do this! Do that! Spray the street! Swab everyone! Shut the schools! Open the Windows! Distribute penicillin! Vaccination! Quarantine! Blame the bacteriologist failing to produce a magic answer! There would be much less panic over experiences real or imagined if there was more readiness to realize that infection matters, that it is often serious and that the means of control are not always either obvious or the same as they were last time or twenty years ago.

The last case of Diphtheria to be notified in Atherton occurred in 1948 and the last deaths from the disease occurred in 1943.

This happy state came as a result of intensive programmes of immunisation initiated prior to the outbreak of war and was mirrored in the fact that in England and Wales in 1967 there were a total of six notified cases (four of which were in one family) and no deaths.

In September, we experienced an outbreak of Diphtheria, centred initially on one family and tragically brought to notice by a death which was ascertained post mortem. This outbreak involved 8 clinical cases, including the death, and 8 healthy carriers all infected by a virulent mitis strain of *C. diphtheriae*.

A 3 year old child was admitted to a paediatric ward via Casualty Department with croup-like symptoms on September 18th, and died the following morning ostensibly from a staphylococcal broncho pneumonia. As a result of the family upset on the 18th, other children of the family were bedded out with relatives in Leigh, and a 9 year old boy was admitted to Monsall Hospital with Diphtheria on September 19th. This led to a review of the cause of death of the younger brother and a subsequent inquest. Investigations of the rest of the family and their social contacts led to the admission of a total of four siblings of the family as mild clinical cases and 15 close social contacts for observation. These latter received passive and active immunisation.

The local schools re-opened after their late summer holiday on September 23rd and on the same morning a conference of

interested involved officers was held at Monsall Hospital. This involved the Physician Superintendent, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service and ourselves and enabled us to agree on appropriate courses of action. Beds were therefore made available for carriers and the Laboratory geared itself to deal with anticipated numbers of swabs.

In schools, the classes attended by two of the family cases were swabbed (nose and throat)- one primary school and one secondary modern school. Three carriers were found in the primary school, who were admitted to hospital and their family contacts swabbed. As a result of these techniques, three further clinical cases were found along with 8 healthy carriers.

The cases and carriers were confined to the primary school, which following the finding of carriers in the class, was swabbed in its entirety.

The episode was finally closed on December 16th.

The local general practitioners had been alerted from the beginning and were kept informed of the progress and proposed methods of control. They gave complete co-operation.

Throughout, the press were kept fully informed and I am pleased to acknowledge the constructive manner in which the outbreak was reported, with emphasis on the need to maintain a high standard of immunisation.

This of course is the lesson to be learned: none of the children of the original family had ever been immunised, in spite of many and repeated attempts at persuasion. One of the other cases had not been immunised and the other two cases had received a primary inoculation 6 years previously but had not received any booster.

The Health Visitors took on the task of swabbing noses and throats - about 4,000 in all and these were reported on by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The co-operation of the hospital authority fulfilled all the demands made upon it and I acknowledge with gratitude the effort made by all concerned.

Dysentery

Seven cases notified for the year, mostly in the under 5 years of age group.

Erysipelas

Two cases notified, both were 45 years of age.

Food Poisoning

No notifications for the year.

Measles

288 cases notified for the year, being an increase of 60 over the previous year. Only three cases occurred in ages over 10 years.

Meningococcal Infection

Again no notifications during the year.

Paratyphoid Fever

One notified case contracted abroad. Following hospitalisation patient shows complete recovery.

Poliomyelitis

No cases notified for the year. Oral vaccine available at Alder House Clinic.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No cases notified for the year.

Scarlet Fever

12 cases notified for the year as against 41 cases in the previous year.

Smallpox

No cases or surveillance contacts during the year.

Tuberculosis

One case of Respiratory tuberculosis reported during the year, and one case removed from Register has recovered.

Typhoid Fever

No notifications for the year.

Whooping Cough

Two cases only, both under 5 years of age.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1968

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												
	Total Cases at all ages	Years											
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over
Diphtheria	8	—	1	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Measles, excl. German Measles	288	11	45	57	53	45	74	2	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	18	—	2	4	2	2	5	2	—	1	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis— Males	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis— Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	342	13	50	64	58	51	82	9	1	5	—	3	6

TABLE V Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth rate	Death rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	2	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	5	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	3	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1959	15.6	15.4	15.1	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1960	16.5	12.7	12.7	21.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1961	16.2	14.1	14.6	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1962	18.1	15.9	15.3	22.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1963	17.7	14.4	14.1	26.6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1964	17.4	13.7	14.1	35.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1965	19.1	13.9	12.0	27.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1966	22.1	16.1	13.7	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1967	18.4	14.1	12.9	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1968	18.2	17.1	14.5	41	8	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SECTION D

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the district is the responsibility of the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking, whose source of supply is the Thirlmere and Haweswater catchment area waters.

There are no wells or private supplies and all premises in the area are served from the town mains supply.

The water has been maintained at a reasonably good pressure, of good quality and sufficiency and has not suffered from any major breakdown throughout the year.

When repairs are carried out there has been complaints of colour and sediment, but these have been resolved in a very short time and samples taken then and periodically throughout the year, have given satisfactory analytical reports.

Streams

There are 8 water courses that flow through the town and they are visited periodically to check on pollution. Sewer storm water overflow discharge into these streams but the Engineers department of this Authority and the Mersey and Weaver Rivers Board Authority, jointly ensure that the requirements of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act are met with.

There are no dye works or chemical works effluents entering these streams. They still present a target for unwanted material of a strange and varied nature, which is most unsightly, impeding the flow of the stream and is a constant disheartening labour to have such material removed.

Drainage and Sewerage

All sewage from the district is dealt with by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewerage Board at the Sewage works establishment off Mather Lane in the Leigh Borough.

The town is mainly served by sewers of the combined drainage system, but with the introduction of Byelaws made under the Highways Act as extended by section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1961, new developments are complying with separate surface water and foul sewer systems.

There is a small number of residential properties on the outskirts of the town where no public sewer is available, but these are adequately serviced with septic tank disposal system.

Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1968 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste-Water Closets	84
Number of Freshwater Closets	8,679
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of moveable Ashbins	7,819
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	7,452

Conversions during 1968:

Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh- water Closets	105
Number of Waste Water Closets Demolished	16

During the Year the Council proceeded with their scheme to eliminate the remaining waste water closets in the district by service of notice under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Progress with the work has been good and 1969 will see the scheme finished.

Disinfestation

The Department continued during the year with the treatment of infested premises, using residual spray insecticides, insecticidal lacquer, and insecticide powder.

Treatment of dwelling houses is carried out by the Department as a free service. Infested clothing and furniture is destroyed by agreement or disinfested through the services of Bolton C.B.C.

Regular inspection and treatment of business premises is carried out and a charge is made in respect of the labour and material involved.

Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the latter part of the year the Council took delivery of a new 35 cu. yd. capacity, rear loading, Pakamatic, collection vehicle. The collection service is now carried out with 3 rear loading Pakamatic vehicles.

Collection is effected by a continuous round system although every effort is made to ensure a weekly collection.

During the year the service was again beset by difficulties due to vehicle breakdown, staff sickness, etc.

Disposal of the refuse is at the Council's refuse tip at Swan Island Quarry, where all control, including grading and soiling is carried out by a J.C.B. mechanical shovel.

During the year the Council permitted occupiers of dwelling houses to dispose of miscellaneous rubbish at the refuse tip free of charge in the hope that this would discourage indiscriminate tipping on vacant sites in the district. This facility remains available.

Waste paper is salvaged and baled with the object of reducing the amount of combustible matter to be accommodated at the refuse tip.

Factories and Workplaces

Throughout the year the inspection of factories and workplaces, under the Factories Act, 1961, continued.

The overall standard in the district is quite good and Management generally are ready to meet their responsibilities and comply with reasonable demands made by the Inspector.

Table VI of the Factories Act, 1961, is appended.

Rodent Control

The Council employ a full time rodent operator whose services were in constant demand throughout the year in dealing with baiting and treatment at the domestic, business and industrial premises in the town.

Complaints from domestic premises are the subject of a free service but a charge to cover the costs involved is levied against business and industrial premises.

A number of the industries have entered into contract with the Council for a monthly rodent treatment of their premises.

In addition a bi-annual treatment of the sewers is carried out complying with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Some resistance to Warfarin has been noted and accordingly alternative formulations have been introduced.

Table VII enumerates the details required to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Swimming Baths

The Council own and maintain a Public Swimming Bath situated near the centre of the town. Control and Management are carried out by a qualified Baths Superintendent and his staff.

The capacity is some 76,000 gallons obtained from the town mains supply being sand filtered and chlorinated to a break point of two parts per million before discharge into the plunge.

Daily dosage tests and recordings are made by the Baths Superintendent, and water sampled by the Public Health Department staff for bacteriological examination has proved satisfactory.

Schools

There are eleven schools in the district serving the various denominations and age groups.

All schools are supplied with water from town mains, have flush toilet accommodation drained in to the main sewer system.

The standard of facilities including drinking water, wash hand basins with hot and cold water, and sanitary accommodation vary with the age of the building and the space available. The older less satisfactory units are being dealt with on a priority basis.

During the year work commenced on the new Leigh St. Mary's School situated in Leigh Road at the western end of the district.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trade establishments in the town.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There are no houses in multiple occupation or common lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Act

One shop only is registered under this Act, and the wider use of modern synthetic products affords a greater measure of control.

TABLE VI
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities ...	7	11	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	81	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	4	7	2	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	86	99	17	—
	—	—	—	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops
Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	11	9	—
Inadequate Ventilation	2	2	—
Unreasonable Temperature	1	1	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	1	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective...	8	7	4
Other Offences against the Act	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	23	19	4
	—	—	—

TABLE VII
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(I) Number of Rodent Operatives employed—One.		
(II) Properties other than Sewers:		
(a) Number of properties in district	8756	10
(b) Total number of properties inspected following notification	317	3
(c) Number of (b) infested by rats	183	3
mice	134	3
(d) Number of properties inspected for rats and for mice for reasons other than notification	8	1
(e) Number of (d) infected by mice	5	1
rats	3	—

(III) Sewer Treatment—

The sewers of the town were treated twice during the year.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1968 were as follows:

Grocers	84
Bakers and/or Confectioners	18
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc.	42
Fried Fish Shops	17
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	21
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	7
Canteens, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections during 1968
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	5	11
„ Meat and Meat Products ...	3	7
Bakehouses	12	16
Fried Fish Shops	17	22
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ...	16	28
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises ...	3	13
Ice Cream Shops	48	55

Food Premises

Premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food were the subject of visits and inspections throughout the year.

The standard of food premises themselves are generally quite good and such infringements that did occur were readily rectified following informal action.

It is not possible, however, to place too much emphasis on the need for regular visits to food premises in order to ensure that a high standard of personal hygiene is maintained. Too often habits regarded as trivial can be a real hazard to clean food handling.

Inspection of food premises not only serve to reveal any inadequacies but provide an opportunity to impress upon the food handler the principles involved in the production and sale of clean food.

The Health Department deals with cases involving foreign bodies in food by means of report to the Lancashire County Council Food and Drugs Inspectorate who investigate in collaboration with the Department and cause the necessary action to be taken against offenders.

The same officers enforced the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act in relating to adulteration and labelling and for this purpose sampling is carried out in the district by them. Details of this sampling carried out during the year are contained in this report.

Slaughterhouses

There are two privately owned slaughterhouses in the district where the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and calves is carried on during the year on a six day week basis. Details of the numbers slaughtered during the year are contained in this report.

The Council employ a full time Authorised Meat Inspector who is in attendance every day of the week. Relief is provided during holiday periods and on Saturdays by the Public Health Inspectors.

All carcase meat and organs are inspected for fitness and marked in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The quality of the carcase meat is high and it was only found necessary to condemn 7 calves and 64 sheep from a total of 4,279 cattle, 1,284 calves, and 32,253 sheep.

The standard of hygiene and construction is satisfactory at both premises. The application of the relevant Data and Regulations appertaining to slaughterhouses being controlled by the Health Department's Inspector on duty at the time.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep
No. Slaughtered	3286	983	1284	32253
No. Inspected	3286	983	1284	32253

All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	7	64
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	912	391	61	6213
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	27.7	39.7	4.7	19.2

Tuberculosis only

Whole Carcases condemned (Irish)	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	4	1	Nil	Nil
---	---	---	-----	-----

Milk Supply

The Lancashire County Council are the responsible Authority for the issue of licences in relation to the production and sale of milk.

All milk sold in the area complies with the requirements of The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Milk sampling is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and by the officers of the Health Department for chemical and bacteriological analysis and examination.

The County Council are also responsible for the organisation and control of the school milk service.

	Total No. of Samples	Positive	RESULT Negative	Void
(1) Samples for biological examination:				
(a) Tuberculosis	8	—	8	—
(b) Brucellosis:				
Ring Test	17	2	15	—
Culture Test	17	1	16	—
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	RESULT Unsatisfactory	Void
(2) Raw Milk:				
Methylene Blue Test	8	8	—	—
(3) Heat Treated Milk:				
(a) Methylene Blue Test...	5	5	—	—
(b) Phosphatase Test	5	5	—	—

Food Inspection

Unsound foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered for condemnation are inspected, collected and disposed of under the supervision of the Department's Officers. Resort to statutory power for the seizure and condemnation of food during the year has not been necessary.

Instances of food containing foreign bodies were dealt with in collaboration with the County Food and Drugs Officers. Appropriate action being taken as a result of their analysis and investigations.

	Number	Weight
Soups	34	29 lbs.
Tinned Meats	131	395 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	216	203 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	257	183 lbs.
Others (fish, tomatoes, etc.)	252	140 lbs.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 82 samples was obtained comprising 34 milks (of which one was a Channel Islands milk) and 48 others as follows:

- 1 Flour Confectionery
- 1 Soluble Aspirin Tablets
- 1 Sweets
- 1 Analgesic Tablets
- 1 Slimming Chock-A-Block
- 1 Extract of Malt and Cod Liver Oil
- 1 Baby Food
- 2 Aspirin Tablets B.P.
- 1 Junior Aspirin Tablets
- 1 Cough Sweets
- 1 Haliborange Tablets
- 1 Flavoured Crisps
- 2 Jelly Crystals
- 1 Self Raising Flour
- 1 Minced Beef and Gravy and Onions
canned
- 1 Dessert Mould
- 1 Ground Ginger
- 1 Junior Dispirin
- 1 Cake Mix, Sweetened
- 1 Ice Lollies
- 1 Omelette Mix
- 2 Tomato Juice, canned
- 1 Epsom Salts B.P.
- 1 Fish, canned

1 Borax B.P.	1 Beans, canned
1 Finger Rolls	1 Icing Sugar
1 Table Jelly	1 Ground Almonds
1 Pickling Spice	1 Tea
1 Semolina	1 Dessert Powder
2 Soft Drinks	1 Dried Currants
1 Jam	1 Dried Sultanas
1 Meat and Vegetables, canned	1 Dried Fruit
1 Baked Beans, canned	1 Almond Marzipan
1 Starch Reduced Loaf	1 Bread

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Flour confectionery	Contained a piece of bakery char (carbonised cake mix) which weighed 0.108 gramme and measured 17x6x3 millimeters thick.	Manufacturer cautioned and complainant informed
Bread	Two of the slices contain approx. 2½ grammes in all of breadcrumbs slightly stained by approx. 0.4 milligram of iron mainly in the form of very finely divided magnetic particles of iron oxide.	Complainant informed and bakery cautioned
Finger Rolls	Sample infected by mould	Bakers cautioned
Beans, canned	Contained a piece of fibrous vegetable matter 35 mg. x 2 mm. x 0.5 mm. and weighing 50 mgs. very closely resembling bean plant stem (although it might have been derived from bean pericarp).	Complainant informed and packers cautioned
Dried Currants	Mineral oil content 0.6%. Should be not more than 0.5%.	Vendor communicated with
Dried Sultanas	Mineral oil content 0.9%. Should be not more than 0.5%.	„

SECTION F

Housing

SECTION F

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	Houses	Flats
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(i) By the Local Authority	12	54
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	226	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		529
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		672
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number dealt with during the year		16
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year		147
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		312

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and 1961):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:		
(a) Unfit houses		23
(b) Other houses		—
(2) Number of persons displaced		37
(3) Families		11

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:—		
Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure ...	4	6
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	6	21

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	*No. of houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	41
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):—	
Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4. **Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	7	6
(b) Approved by Local Authority	5	5
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	1	154
(Improvement of Pre-War Council Houses)		
(d) Approved by the Ministry	1	154
(e) Works completed (1966 and 1967)	5	172
(Includes Phase I, II, III total 170 houses) Pre War Council Houses modernisation.		

House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959—

Standard Grants—

	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Applications submitted to L.A.	56
(b) Applications approved by L.A.	54
(c) Work completed	148
(Includes those completed 1968 but approved 1967)	

General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits)	1731
Schools	18
Factories and workplaces	134
Bakehouses	145
Food preparing premises and shops	204
Miscellaneous, etc.	355
Slaughterhouses	9
Inspectorial	858
	<hr/> 3454 <hr/>

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	61	58
Defective W.C.s	42	42
Choked or defective drains	29	29
Insanitary conditions of yards	3	3
Defective plaster on walls, etc.	72	67
House walls damp	61	55
Defective eaves gutters	16	12
Defective windows, etc.	29	27
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	2	2
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	77	73
	<hr/> 392 <hr/>	<hr/> 368 <hr/>

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:

Informal	231
Statutory	6

GENERAL—Conditions and Observations

The Registrar-General mid year estimated population figure of 20,700, is again an increase over the previous years figure of 20,510.

The rateable value is shown as £548,154 and the product of 1d. rate as £2,107.

The area has an industrial background and currently the main industries are nut and bolt manufacture, cotton, engineering and electrical component manufacture. Additionally the Lancashire United Transport undertaking operate a large fleet of vehicles.

Good progress continues to be made in the Council Scheme for the modernisation of pre war Council houses and to date 170 have been completed and a further 154 have been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Private enterprise continues development in the town and these attract a number of new householders from outside the town.

1968 saw the No. 4 Smoke Control Area become operative on 1st November, 1968 and a total 3053 dwellings are now covered by orders. Progress continues to be steady but the results achieved to date have been quite rewarding.

During the year the refuse collection and disposal service continued to meet the demand quite reasonably despite minor setbacks. During the latter part of the year delivery was taken of a new 35 cu. yd. refuse collection vehicle.

In the normal work of the Department the inspection of shops, food premises, rodent control and disinfestation was carried out regularly.

SECTION G

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

SECTION G

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric Pollution

There are four Smoke Control Areas in operation, covering 3053 dwellings. The Council made the No. 5 Area and proposed that this becomes operative on 1st November, 1969.

The total acreage covered to date is approximately 1610 and a further 115 will be added with the No. 5 Area giving a total of 1725. The acreage of the town is given as 2,265.

Readings continue to be taken from the two atmospheric pollution stations in the town. These readings are taken daily and the information obtained is forwarded to the D.S.I.R. Laboratory at Warren Springs for inclusion in their statistics.

Tables of recordings summarised as monthly averages are contained herein.

Average daily amounts of pollution
in microgrammes per cubic metre
of air

	Smoke		Sulphur Dioxide	
	Town Hall	Parks Garage	Town Hall	Parks Garage
January	212	178	135	70
February	312	270	218	140
March	152	138	74	54
April	132	122	102	102
May	126	117	76	68
June	37	62	21	42
July	68	66	36	52
August	51	43	32	39
September ...	98	84	68	43
October	186	127	120	61
November ...	246	157	196	89
December ...	273	183	203	88

(2) Tables for 1965, 1966, and 1967 overleaf

Tables showing the average daily amount of pollution for the years: 1965, 1966, 1967, expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre

	1965						1966						1967					
	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	Town Hall	Parks	Garage	Town Hall	Parks	Garage	Town Hall	Parks	Garage	Town Hall	Parks	Garage	Town Hall	Parks	Garage	Town Hall	Parks	Garage
January	289	317	234	125	310	322	260	170	206	207	247	103						
February	196	268	219	110	234	199	194	132	82	115	193	81						
March	140	254	240	161	212	111	165	61	73	45	104	60						
April	56	131	156	195	145	128	143	108	79	64	98	57						
May	78	145	122	108	95	53	147	88	87	66	86	76						
June	25	70	97	80	58	32	99	65	41	29	56	51						
July	86	71	66	55	30	23	47	38	18	19	32	44						
August	150	103	90	74	87	63	102	54	72	42	81	62						
September ...	215	200	142	70	131	99	166	99	83	70	104	58						
October	263	258	203	158	193	171	203	91	117	70	89	46						
November ...	274	349	220	167	223	199	196	83	340	260	258	141						
December ...	232	295	347	103	198	135	184	52	237	148	174	49						

